



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## STANDING UP FOR SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS, AND MILITARY FAMILIES



Governor Whitmer has worked to ensure Michigan's service members, veterans, and their families have the opportunities and support they need to succeed. The administration has boosted outreach to veterans, ensuring they and their families have affordable healthcare, attainable housing, and paths to good-paying jobs.

### Recognizing Michigan's servicemembers, veterans, and military families

- Appointed over 100 active military and veterans to numerous boards and commissions.
- [Appointed by President Biden](#) to the Council of Governors to work with federal officials on defense, National Guard, disaster response, and other security issues. .

### Standing up for Selfridge

- [Pushed](#) for a new fighter mission at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Macomb County.
- Secured resources to [modernize](#) Selfridge Air National Guard Base.
- [Proposed](#) an additional \$11.5 million to improve base infrastructure and compete for next generation aircraft and future fighter missions.
- [Signed a budget](#) investing \$5 million to protect and grow Michigan's cutting-edge defense and homeland security industry and expand R&D opportunities.

### Securing paths to opportunity and career advancement

- Signed [bipartisan bills](#) to make it easier for military service members, veterans, and their spouses and dependents to receive a professional license within the state.
- Signed [bipartisan legislation](#) expanding the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, allowing dependents and spouses of service members to pursue higher education at a lower cost.
- [Announced a partnership](#) between the Michigan National Guard (MING) and Michigan Helmets to Hardhats, a program connecting veterans to skill-training opportunities and careers in the construction trades.
- Reinvigorated the Michigan [Veteran Friendly Schools Program](#), to highlight Michigan educational institutions that support the needs of military-connected students.

### Providing services for veterans, servicemembers, and military

- Consistently increased funding for [veteran's services organizations](#) and officers.
- [Signed bipartisan budgets](#) consistently investing in [suicide prevention outreach](#) for service members, veterans, and their families.
- Launched the "[She is a Veteran](#)" campaign to reach 47,000 women veterans and created [Check on MIVet](#), serving 500+ families requesting a check-in on their loved ones.
- Received the state's fourth Abraham Lincoln Pillar Award from the VA, recognizing outstanding programs that support veterans.
- Signed legislation expanding voting rights for [military members and families](#) serving overseas. \_
- [Eliminated the fee](#) associated with having a veteran-designated license plate.

### Investing in facilities for veterans and servicemembers

- Fully funded the construction of a new veteran's home in Marquette and celebrated the opening of [two new Michigan Veterans Home facilities](#) in Grand Rapids and Chesterfield Township
- Invested in the modernization of all [Michigan National Guard armories](#) to accommodate [female service members](#).
- Proposed funding for the [Michigan Veterans Facility Authority](#) to better align state and federal resources to the new operating model for the facilities home-like settings.
- Opened the [Kelly Johnson Joint All Domain Innovation Center](#) for military members, government, and industry professionals to research and collaborate.
- Stood up the [National All-Domain Warfighting Center](#) at Camp Grayling and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. This provides training opportunities on land, air, maritime, cyber, and space environments.
- Secured funding for a new [state veterans cemetery](#) in the Northern lower peninsula and to evaluate the need for a state veterans cemetery in northern Michigan.
- Hosted over 17,000 military and coalition forces between 2019 and 2022.

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